

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/450,640

Examiner

Duc T. Duong

Applicant(s)

KOTICK ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/21/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 49.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Mills on September 21, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 39-48 are cancelled.

Claim 49 is amended as followed:

Claim 49 (marked-up). A method ~~for communicating with~~ of providing communications among a plurality of audio ~~voice~~ communications systems used onboard ships, ~~within a global positioning system~~ the method comprising the steps of:

providing a single headset having a left speaker, a right speaker, and a microphone for providing an operator with voice transmission;

providing an audio hardware interface comprising:

a central processing module for performing input/output control;

a network control module for a Wide Area Network WAN;

a digital signal processing module for storing, converting, and  
compressing analog audio signals into a digital signal stream;

a switch control module for switching of audio signal between the WAN and the communications systems;

an input/output process module for connecting the communications systems; and

a time encoder module for performing a global positioning GPS time stamping of audio packets;

connecting ~~an audio~~ the audio hardware interface between a the plurality of independent species of audio communications systems and the single headset, ~~the audio interface~~ for switching discrete audio communications signals from the plurality of audio communications systems and routing the discrete audio signals to one of the left speaker and the right speaker, and from the microphone of the headset in response to a command from an operator;

providing an operator control interface comprising a push buttons styled display for viewing by the operator and manual selection of discrete audio communications signals for operating with the headset;

providing a graphical user interface operable with the audio hardware interface for controlling the routing and switching of the audio signals, ~~the operator control interface including a push button styled display for viewing by the operator and manual selection of discrete audio communications signals for operating with the headset,~~ wherein the graphical user interface ~~display of the operator control interface comprises a graphical user interface display~~ including scenario control buttons for selection of a desired virtual frequency channel of the WAN for inputs to one of the left speaker and

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the right speaker, ~~as desired~~ and for selection of the audio communication systems selected from a group comprising of a tactical radio telephone system, an interphone system, a sound power telephone system, and a surface ship telephone system;

operating the graphical user interface for connection to a first ~~discrete~~ audio communications system and routing a first discrete audio signal to one of the left speaker and the right speaker of the headset;

operating the graphical user interface for connection to a second ~~discrete~~ audio communications system and routing a second discrete audio signal to one another of the left speaker and the right speaker of the headset;

operating the graphical user interface for connection of the microphone of the headset to a third ~~discrete~~ audio communications system;

selecting control buttons of the graphical user interface for ~~communication~~ communications between the headset and the ~~a wide area network (WAN)~~, wherein the communications ~~audio interface includes a network control module for sending and receiving network packets of information across the WAN; and~~

time encoding of a recording of voice communications using the global positioning system for time stamping of audio packets transmitted and received via WAN.

The examiner's amendment was made to place the claim allowable.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claim 49 is allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or make obvious the steps of or means for **"scenario control buttons for selection of communications equipment selected from a group consisting of a tactical radio telephone system, an interphone system, a sound power telephone system, and a surface ship telephone system"**, when such buttons are a considered within the specific structure of the method recited in claim 49.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***


4: Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc T. Duong whose telephone number is 571-272-3122. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00 AM-5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Q. Ngo can be reached on 571-272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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RICKY NGO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER